

2008 Alabama Wildland Urban Interface S&PF Grant Proposal – COVER PAGE

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Applicant Contact Information | Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) P.O. Box 302550 Montgomery, AL 36130-2550 | | |
| Project Name | 2008 Alabama Wildland Urban Interface S&PF Grant Proposal | | |
| Project Leader | Stanley Anderson Office: (251) 937-7771 Email: stanley.anderson@forestry.alabama.gov | | |
| Project Abstract | <p>AFC will strengthen the links between its existing urban forestry, forest management, and fire control programs by enhancing the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Program. As urban growth or “sprawl” and development expands into rural forestlands, threats to forest sustainability, water quality, and wildfire protection increases. AFC will use these funds to minimize the effects of urban growth to existing forests, and to reduce threats from wildfire damage to homeowners and forest landowners. First, AFC staff will develop and offer training in urban planning techniques, fire hazard assessments, and mitigation practices in the WUI. Funds will be used to train urban planners, developers, home builders, other resource professionals, volunteer fire departments, and local officials on green infrastructure planning, creating livable mixed neighborhoods, conserving working forests, protecting environmental quality, and enhancing forest sustainability. Second, AFC and adjoining states’ staff will then provide technical assistance to city planners, homeowners, and developers in fast-growing areas at risk. Trained personnel will work with homeowners and communities to conduct home site hazard assessments, identify fire mitigation needs, and develop actions plans to reduce risks. AFC will train vendors to implement practices identified in the mitigation action plans. Finally, AFC will develop and implement a cost-share program to provide financial assistance to homeowners in communities at risk and to implement fire mitigation action plans. This cost-share program will be designed and implemented in Alabama and adjoining counties in FL, MS, TN & GA. The program will be demonstrated to adjacent states. Multiple states in the South may use this program as a model.</p> | | |
| Partners | <u>State Forestry Agencies:</u> Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee; <u>Other Partners:</u> Interface South, Firewise Community/USA, Alabama Urban Forestry Association, Alabama Emergency Management Agency, developers, forest landowners, homeowners, property owners associations, RC&D Councils, S&WC districts, Association of Regional Planning Commissions, League of Municipalities, Association of County Commissioners, Real Estate Associations, Homebuilders Associations, Auburn University’s Center for Forest Sustainability, Extension System, Your-town Alabama, VFDs & Fire Associations. | | |
| Project Location (areas influenced) | Congressional Districts and Counties include: Alabama: D1 through D7 and all 67 counties; Florida: D1 (Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington), D2 (Jackson); Georgia: D2 (Seminole, Early, Clay, Quitman, Stewart, Chattahoochee), D3 (Muscogee, Harris, Troup, Heard, Carroll South), D9 (Walker, Dade), and D11 (Carroll North, Haralson, Polk, Chattooga); Mississippi: D1 (Tishomingo, Itawamba, Monroe, Lowndes), D3 (Noxubee, Kemper, Lauderdale), D4 (Clarke, Wayne, Greene, George, Jackson); Tennessee: D3 (Polk, Bradley, Hamilton,), D4 (Marion, Franklin, Lincoln, Giles, Lawrence), D7 (Wayne, Hardin, McNairy, Hardeman, Fayette), D9 (Shelby). | | |
| Expected Completion | The training and education plan will be developed during Q2/2008 and implemented from Q3/2008 through Q4/2010. The assessment will be developed during Q2/2008 and implemented from Q3/2008 through Q4/2009. The mitigation cost-share plan will be developed and trial projects implemented and evaluated from Q1/2009 through Q4/2009. The mitigation cost-share program will be implemented from Q1/2010 through Q4/2010. | | |
| | Total Federal Funding Request (A) | Match & External Leveraged Funds (B) | Total Budget (A + B) |
| Action Item #1: Training and Education | \$ 300,000 | \$ 450,000 | \$ 750,000 |
| Action Item #2: Assessment & Mitigation Action Plan | \$ 400,000 | \$ 600,000 | \$ 1,000,000 |
| Action Item #3: Financial Assistance for Hazard Mitigation | \$ 750,000 | \$ 400,000 | \$ 1,150,000 |
| Action Item #4: Purchase Equipment & Supplies for BMPs | \$ 250,000 | \$250,000 | \$ 500,000 |
| TOTAL | \$ 1,700,000 (50 %) | \$ 1,700,000 (50 %) | \$ 3,400,000 |

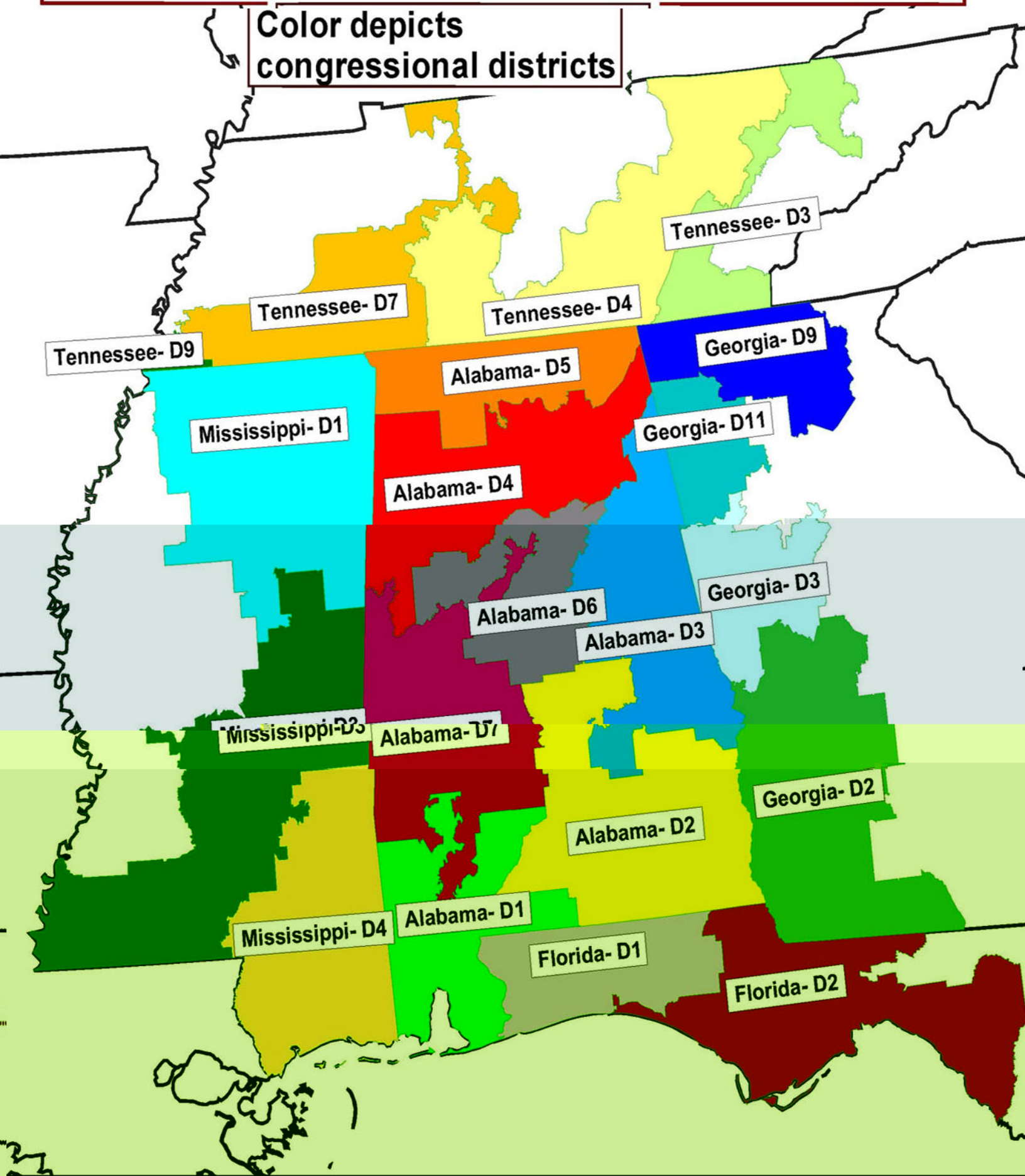
2008 Alabama Wildland Urban Interface S&PF Grant Proposal – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

| ACTION ITEM(S) | ACTION ITEM DESCRIPTION | EXPECTED OUTCOMES (3 years) |
|--|--|---|
| Action Item #1: Training and Education | Train AFC staff and adjoining states on Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) –Changing Roles, Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), the Firewise Communities/USA Program, and Your-Town Alabama Workshop (or similar green infrastructure planning workshops). Training will focus on fire mitigation through building defensible green space, hazardous fuel reduction, and also on building better mixed-neighborhoods and communities through green infrastructure planning. Training will provide knowledge and skills so staff can deliver quality technical assistance to homeowners, landowners, urban planners, planning commissions and developers. This will allow staff to better protect communities at risk, as well as reduce forest loss through fragmentation that threatens working forests and sustainability. This will further educate city planners and local officials on opportunities for better urban planning using “Smart Growth” and green infrastructure principles for future residential, industrial, and commercial developments. | <u>70% of county-level employees in Alabama and adjoining counties of neighboring states will be trained in:</u> WUI Changing Roles, Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) Firewise Communities/ USA and development of Risk Assessment Hazard & Mitigation Action Plans Deliver 20 workshops on Green Infrastructure Planning |
| Action Item #2: Hazard Risk Assessments & Action Plan Mitigation | Conduct wildfire risk assessments and develop mitigation action plans for homeowners in high risk communities. Identify and prepare Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) for high risk communities. Work with city officials, urban planners, developers, and regional planning commissions, fire service and emergency management to provide wildfire mitigation, evacuation, ingress/egress, and coordinated suppression plans from potential large wildfires; provide urban forestry technical assistance to existing homeowners and public works departments in order to protect urban trees while also identifying hazardous trees that threaten homes, and public safety. | Agency personnel will prepare: 600 Firewise Residential Risk Assessment Hazard & Mitigation Action Plans 35 CWPP Plans; 8 Firewise Community/ USA Certified 150 urban forestry or community tree care technical assists |
| Action Item #3: Financial Assistance for Hazard Mitigation | Identify and train vendors to implement specified practices identified in the fire mitigation action plans. Establish a program in Alabama and bordering counties using contractors with specialized equipment capable of establishing and maintaining fuel breaks, removing hazardous fuels, establishing defensible space around structures, and other wildland fuel mitigation services in areas at risk, while protecting water quality using best management practices (BMPs). Develop and implement a cost-share program to provide financial assistance to homeowners and communities in moderate and high fire risk areas. This cost-share program will be developed in Alabama with input from surrounding states in order to be capable of implementation across multiple states in the South. Forest landowners, property owners’ associations and individual homeowners in communities at risk, prospective Firewise Communities USA, and certified Firewise Communities have priority for cost-share. Forestry agencies will develop specifications on fuel breaks, defensible space, hazardous fuel reduction, and related BMPs. Partners will help develop cost-share guidelines, practices’ specifications, and related installation and maintenance agreements for individuals, associations, corporations participating in the program. These practices will be capable of being maintained by mowing, disking, and chemical applications beyond the grant period, with landowner contracts. | Identify/list private vendors to carry-out fire mitigation practices. Create and implement a cost-share program to accomplish \$1.0 million wildfire mitigation of which \$750,000 is financial assistance to homeowners and communities for implementing mitigation practices in high-hazard areas. Landowners will contribute cost-share match to reduce hazardous fuels and accomplish: 435 thousand linear feet (mlf) of fuelbreaks, 545 mlf permanent fire breaks, and 335 homes will have Firewise survivable space. |
| Action Item #4 Purchase Equipment | AFC will purchase equipment, supplies, and materials to install BMPs on the above fuel breaks, and maintain them for the grant period. | 14 pieces of equipment will be acquired. |

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| | homeowners in communities at risk, prospective and certified Firewise Communities/USA communities have priority for cost-share. Forestry agencies will develop specifications on fuel breaks, defensible space, hazardous fuel reduction, and related BMPs. Forestry agencies will also develop cost-share guidelines, practices' specifications, and related installation and maintenance agreements for individuals, associations, corporations participating in the program. |
| Technology | <p>Information from Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment, critical forest areas assessments, urban sprawl growth trends, fire hazards assessments, GAP, and other GIS data to locate areas of high growth and high wildfire risks.</p> <p>Emphasize new specialized equipment for low environmental impact vegetation control, including brushcutting, mulching, and chemical applications. Utilize the latest technology and specifications for prescribing and implementing best management practices for water quality.</p> <p>Integrated PDA-GPS handheld devices to map problem areas and completed mitigation activities. Internet technology to deliver education information to the general public and to deliver the cost-share program. ArcView GIS (web-based) to summarize and prepare final reports.</p> |
| Integrated Delivery | <p>Training and education in conjunction with multiple-state forestry agencies, universities, and USDA will enhance outcomes of action items with surrounding states. Alabama, Florida and Mississippi (in the Perdido, Escatawpa, and Mobile River Basins) are comparable landscapes that share similar challenges in the WUI. Other regions include Tennessee Valley, Wiregrass, Piedmont, and Appalachia.</p> <p>Forestry staff will encourage assistance from federal and other state agencies and organizations to establish and market the cost-share hazard mitigation activities. Local governments and VFDs will become an integral part of the information education, hazard assessments, and mitigation action plans.</p> |
| Leverage | AFC is submitting a request for 50% of the total estimated cost to implement this program to be supported by federal funds. State funds, in-kind personnel time and direct expenses, and cost-share matches will be used to match 50% total cost of this federal grant request. |
| Influence Positive Change | <p>This program will transfer knowledge and skills to forestry staff, local governments, forest landowners, developers, homeowners, and the general public that will extend many years beyond the grant period. This program will build upon other programs already existing in fire prevention, fire suppression, urban forestry assistance, and urban planning. The benefits from these future activities will more than offset the cost of this program to taxpayers.</p> <p>Cooperating with and utilizing experiences and lessons learned from other states will help establish a more effective program by minimizing time and resources. Diverse participation from partners with varied experiences will influence a higher standard and better quality program.</p> <p>Wildfire mitigation treatments, hazardous fuel reduction, and best management practices will be more visible to landowners and the public. Positive change will be influenced by these activities which demonstrate the need for these practices and increase awareness of forest protection, community wildfire protection, and the forestry agencies' efforts to maintain water quality.</p> |
| Timeliness | <p>Training, education, and public awareness will be conducted during all three years.</p> <p>Site Hazard Assessments and Mitigation Action Plans and CWPP will be conducted starting in Spring 2008 and continue through the end of the grant period.</p> <p>The cost-share program will be developed during the first four quarters of the grant period, and a will be announced in the fall of 2008 and continue through the grant period or until funds are exhausted.</p> <p>These activities will be continued past the grant period as funding and resources allow.</p> |

Alabama Wildland Urban Interface

Color depicts congressional districts





MOBILE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**348 North McGregor Avenue
Mobile, Alabama 36608
(251) 460-8000**

October 26, 2007

Stanley Anderson
Alabama State Forestry Commission
41261 State Hwy 225
Bay Minette, Al 36507

Dear Sir,

After thoroughly reviewing your proposed 2008 Alabama Wildland Urban Interface State and Private Forestry Grant Proposal the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency would like to give our complete support to this project with it's four listed action items.

The current wildfire situation in California and Mobile County being one of Alabama's listed most 'at risk' counties for wildfires we feel that this Grant Project will go a long way to educate and mitigate this potential problem in our county as well as all other counties in the state.

I appreciate all of the hard work done by our State Forestry Commission on behalf of the citizens of Mobile County and look forward to speaking to you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Walt Dickerson
Director
Mobile County Emergency Management Agency

Cc: Mr. Ronnie Adair
Mr. Mike Evans



GULF COAST

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

107 Courthouse Square
Bay Minette, AL 36507
251-580-0195

October 29, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

The Gulf Coast RC&D Council is in support of the Wild Land/Urban Interface Project. Our RC&D Council area consists of Escambia, Baldwin and Mobile Counties. We are in support of this project and look forward to our partnership in it.

Kyle Baggett
Gulf Coast RC&D Chairman

From: Bob Farris [mailto:bfarris@GFC.STATE.GA.US]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2007 3:00 PM
To: Casey, Linda
Subject:

Linda:

The Georgia Forestry Commission supports the 2008 Alabama, Florida, Georgia Longleaf Pine Corridor S&PF grant proposal. We are submitting the same grant proposal with Georgia funding figures but have excluded the longleaf seed orchard section because we are also submitting a separate grant request for Loblolly / Slash / archive and Longleaf orchard proposals. I am guessing that there will be other grant proposals amongst the states that could or will be combined for funding re orchards / archives.

The Georgia Forestry Commission also supports the 2008 Joint Invasive Species S&PF grant proposal. We also have a joint proposal in this arena with Florida and South Carolina. We would be quite happy to share our existing presentations and outreach materials. We are working hard to eradicate the 73 Cogongrass infestations located in Georgia. Our real hope is that as the assessments are completed and the "regional spread map" developed, each of the state's surrounding Georgia will target their control efforts on the advancing fronts in their respective states.....we're thinking Eastern Alabama, Northern Florida, and Western South Carolina.

We look forward to further opportunities to further enhance our already strong cooperative efforts!



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner
The Capitol • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800

October 29, 2007

Ms. Linda S. Casey
State Forester
Alabama Forestry Commission
P. O. Box 302550
Montgomery, AL 36130

Please Respond to:
Division of Forestry
Forest Management Bureau
3125 Conner Blvd., C-25
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650
Telephone: (850) 488-6611
Fax: (850) 921-6724

Dear Ms. ~~Casey~~: *L. S. Casey*

Thank you for the opportunity to support the Alabama Forestry Commission's Competitive Grant proposal, "Wildland Urban Interface Project". I understand this collaborative effort will provide additional Wildland Urban Interface education and activity in a seven county area in the Florida Panhandle. This project will help facilitate stronger links between urban forestry, forest management and fire control divisions of our state agencies to best serve all of our citizens. During 2004 & 2005 south Alabama and the Florida panhandle both suffered active hurricane seasons and additional efforts in this region will be well worth while.

We gladly offer our support in this timely and much needed project.

Sincerely,

CHARLES H. BRONSON
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Michael C. Long, Director
Florida Division of Forestry
850/488-4274



Florida Agriculture and Forest Products
\$97 Billion for Florida's Economy